

The Girl Who Heard the Music: How One Pianist and 85,000 Bottles and Cans Brought New Hope to an Island

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Synopsis: The true story of award-winning pianist and environmental activist Mahani Teave and the beloved island she is helping to save.

Suggested Reading Date: March 29 (World Piano Day); April (Earth Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- **Makerspace:** Collect recyclables in boxes for several weeks. Have students use these materials to create their own musical instruments to give materials a new life. Ideas for instruments can be found here: <https://www.musicindustryhowto.com/homemade-musical-instruments/>
- Pair and Share: How does music make you feel? How do you think it made Mahani feel? What tells you that?
- Discuss the illustrations: What do the pictures tell you about the music in the book? Do you think the pictures can show you what you hear in music?
- Discuss the theme of helping the environment. What do you, your friends, and family do to help the environment? Does your school do anything?

Related Websites:

- Illustrator's Website: <https://www.martalvarez.com/>
- Mahani Teave's Website: <https://dworkincompany.com/site/artist/mahani-teave/>
- A Mighty Girl - Interview with author Marni Fogelson: <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=36803>
- YouTube – Video showing the construction of the music school: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd7XBswFDlw>
- YouTube – Video of Mahani sharing about the importance of music on Rapa Nui: <https://youtu.be/yA5TV6odmeI?si=AnYieuLfwuKh3ycG>
- Tiny Desk Concert (NPR) – Mahani Teave: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/24/1009053413/mahani-teave-tiny-desk-home-concert>
- Sourcebooks - Educator's Guide: <https://cdn-sourcebooks.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/downloads/educatorguides/GWHTM-EducatorGuide.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Seven Golden Rings* by Rajani LaRocca, *Amara and the Bats* by Emma Reynolds, *Our Planet! There's No Place Like Earth* by Stacey McAnulty, *Black Beach* by Shaunna Stith, *Greta* by Jeanette Winter, *Dancing Hands* by Margarita Engle

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